

# Idaho State Department of Education

### IDAHO CHARTER SCHOOL SUPPORT PROGRAM GRANTS

### Vision Pre-Charter Planning Grants Planning and Implementation Grants

The primary purpose of the Idaho Charter School Support Program Grant is to support the development of high quality, unique and innovative educational programming in the state of Idaho and to increase the potential for the success of Idaho charter schools as educational models focused on high student achievement.

The Idaho Charter School Support Program Grant is federally funded by the U.S. Department of Education through Title V, Part B, Subpart 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 – Charter School Program. The Idaho State Department of Education may award sub-grants for public charter school planning and implementation.

The 2007-2008 school year marks the end of a threeyear federal grant. Funding for sub-grant projects that extend beyond that date will be dependent upon the availability of future federal funding.

### **Submit Grant Proposals to:**

Shirley Rau
School Choice Coordinator
Division of Innovation and Choice
Idaho Department of Education
P.O. Box 83720
650 West State Street
Boise ID 83720-0027
E-Mail: sarau@sde.idaho.gov

Phone: 208-332-6963

### **Background**

Charter schools are public schools that are free and open to all students. A charter school gives parents the choice of sending their children to a school that uses innovative methods to provide a quality education, often in a smaller, more responsive learning environment. The concept emerged in the 1970s as a means of promoting school innovation and reform. The idea was that local school boards would provide small groups of educators a "charter" to explore new approaches.

In 1991, Minnesota passed the first charter school law. By 1995, 19 states had signed laws allowing for the creation of chartered public schools. Charter schools have received bipartisan support across the country. In 1997, President Clinton called for the creation of 3,000 charter schools by the year 2002. In 2002, President Bush asked Congress for \$200 million to support charter school development and another \$100 million for the Credit Enhancement for Charter Schools Facilities Program. Today 40 states and the District of Columbia have charter school legislation. The National Alliance of Public Charter Schools published 2007 statistics indicating that there are 4,046 charter schools across the nation serving 1,144,758 students in grades K-12.

Idaho Public Charter School Statute (Chapter 52, Title 33, Idaho Code) became effective on July 1, 1998. The Idaho Legislature enacted the charter school legislation with wide bipartisan support with the intent of providing new opportunities for teachers, parents, students and communities. Idaho public charter schools operate independently within Idaho's public school system and are established to accomplish any of the following:

- 1. Improve student learning;
- 2. Increase learning opportunities for all students with special emphasis on expanded learning experiences for students;
- 3. Include the use of different and innovative teaching methods;
- 4. Utilize virtual distance learning and on-line learning;
- 5. Create new professional opportunities for teachers, including the opportunity to be responsible for the learning program at the school site;
- 6. Provide parents and students with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the educational system;
- 7. Hold the schools accountable for meeting measurable student educational standards.

There are currently 30 charter schools operating in the state. According to the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) data, 8,950 students were enrolled in Idaho charter schools in 2006-07. Schools report that another 4,600 students are on charter school waiting lists. Charter schools in Idaho demonstrate research-based methodologies and programs, providing a range of quality educational choices for students, parents and teachers. In addition to brick and mortar charter schools, there are currently 4 virtual charter schools in Idaho.

### **Charter School Program Goals**

Since 1994, the U.S. Department of Education has provided grants to support state charter school planning and implementation efforts (Title V, Part B, Subpart 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001). The purpose of the Charter Schools Program (CSP) is to expand the number of high-quality charter schools available to students across the nation by providing financial assistance for planning, program design, and initial implementation of public charter schools; evaluation of the effects of charter schools; and the dissemination of information about charter schools and successful practices in charter schools.

Aligned with these purposes, the specific grant goals for the Idaho Charter School Support Program are to:

- 1. Provide an instructional program aligned with state content and performance standards that ensure every child served by the school is reaching his/her highest potential.
- 2. Install and implement SDE recommended software in order to align with the Idaho student information management systems.
- 3. Utilize data from multiple sources, including statewide assessments, to inform the instructional practices and organizational structure of the school.
- 4. Provide intervention to students who have been assessed and found to be below proficient level on state assessments, as well as other measures.
- 5. Develop a continuous school improvement planning process as part of the culture of the school.
- 6. Provide targeted professional development to staff as determined by self-reflection and an analysis of data and current practices.
- 7. Continue to increase number of charter schools.
- 8. Continue to increase learning opportunities for all students by ensuring that charter schools serve all populations of students and no one is excluded because of ethnicity, race, economic status, religion or disability.
- 9. Increase use of research-based instructional models that are proven to increase student achievement.
- 10. Increase public awareness regarding programs at charter schools and their roles in Idaho's public school system.
- 11. Increase communication among charter developers, charter school operators, local school districts, and the SDE.
- 12. Evaluate effects of charter schools including identification of the most effective strategies leading to increases in student achievement, especially that of the educationally disadvantaged, which ultimately will lead to improved quality and innovation in the Idaho public school system.

### **Grant Categories**

### 1) Vision Planning Grants – maximum award \$50,000

The purpose of Idaho Pre-Charter Vision Grants is to support the development of high quality charter schools in Idaho by providing financial resources to school districts, individuals or groups interested in researching and designing a new public charter school or converting an existing traditional public school to a public charter school.

Vision Planning Grants are new for the 2007-2008 year. Lack of available charter school planning funds has been burdensome to many charter developers in Idaho. In 2007, the Idaho State Department of Education modified its policy regarding the release of Charter School Support Grant funds to allow charter school developers to receive planning funds prior to the first year of operation.

The Vision Planning Grant performance period begins on the date of the award and ends after 6 months. Upon favorable review and charter authorization by a district authorizer or the Idaho State Public Charter School Commission, the charter school will be eligible for additional start-up planning and implementation funds. Should the school receive additional funds, the overall project period will begin with the date of the Vision Planning Grant award and will continue with the Start-up Planning and Implementation grant for up to 36 months. No more than 18 months may be used for planning program design and no more than two years may be used for the initial implementation of a charter school.

#### **Submission Deadlines:**

Grant applications will be accepted beginning in October 2007 and ending in March 2008. Awards will be issued on a monthly basis beginning in November 2007 and ending in April 2008. Submissions will be due to the SDE on the final business day of the month, in order to be included in the review process for the following month.

2) Start-Up Planning and Implementation Grants - maximum award \$150,000/year To be eligible for the Post-Charter Planning and Implementation Grants, an applicant must be a charter school that has been authorized by either a local school district or by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

Charter schools that are authorized, but are not yet open and operating, and charter schools that are in their first year of operation are eligible to apply for CSP sub-grant funding. If they have not received any previous Vision Grant planning funds, they are eligible for a full 12 months of Planning Sub-grant funding. If the terms and conditions of the contract of those months are met and completed, they are eligible to receive implementation sub-grant funding for the remainder of the 36 month contract period.

**Submission Deadline:** Friday, August 31, 2007 Award September 2008

### **Allowable Activities**

The Idaho Charter School Support Program Grant is federally funded and must adhere to all applicable federal laws and regulations. Federal guidelines do not allow recipients to use these project funds for expenditures which were encumbered prior to the effective date of the project award. Grant funds are intended to be used to supplement, not supplant, state or local funds.

An eligible applicant receiving a federal Charter School Program sub-grant may use the sub-grant funds only for the following:

- Planning and design of the educational program, which may include: Refinement of the desired educational results and of the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; and professional development of teachers and other staff who will work within the charter school.
- Initial implementation of the charter school, which may include: Informing the community about the school; acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies; acquiring or developing curriculum materials; and other initial operational costs that cannot be met with state or local sources.

#### **Vision Planning Grant Activities:**

The newly developed Vision Planning Grants are designed to offer assistance and resources to help develop and refine plans with the result of opening unique, high quality and innovative charter schools in Idaho. Grants may also be used for the acquisition of technical assistance as the applicant's proposal proceeds through the review process. Funds must be used to develop a charter application to submit to a local school district or to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission.

For authorized charter schools that are not yet in operation or charter schools in their first year of operation and have not received any Vision Planning Grant funds, federal grant funds are to be used for the planning, development and initial needs of the new or proposed charter school's program systems, operations and organizations. This includes activities to refine existing plans, promote interest in the charter school, and/or provide training for developers and staff. In addition to the activities described above, federal guidance allows both non-chartered and chartered applicants to use grant funds for acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies and/or other initial start-up costs that cannot be met from state or local sources. Sub-grant funds may be also be used for publications, training and travel.

As a requirement of receiving the Vision Planning Grants, all awardees are encouraged to visit a recognized high performing "best practice" school or model charter school. The school visited must be similar in nature to the proposed or desired charter school. The school may be located in or out of state. Out-of-state travel expenses are limited to \$1,500 in planning sub-grant expenditures. In-state travel expenses are limited to \$500 in planning sub grant expenses.

### **Start-Up Planning and Implementation Grant Activities:**

Start-Up Planning and Implementation Grant recipients must use funds for one-time costs that cannot be met with state or local sources associated with preparing to open a charter school:

- Post award planning and design of the educational program, which may include: a) Refinement of the desired educational results and the methods for measuring progress toward achieving those results; b) Access of technical assistance in the design and implementation of the educational program; c) Professional development of teachers and other staff who will work in the charter school.
- Initial implementation of the charter school, which include but are not limited to: a) Engaging the community in the school's implementation and governance; b) acquiring necessary equipment and educational materials and supplies; c) acquiring or developing curricular materials; d) other initial start-up costs that cannot be met from state or local sources; e) advertising the school and soliciting students; f) installing technology.

Funds may be used for required CSP Planning and Implementation Training for school leaders, boards, business managers and faculty. Federal regulations expressly prohibit the use of CSP funds for fundraising, purchase of land or the construction of new facilities. Remodeling costs are restricted to projects that bring the facility up to code for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, or are directly tied to a specific education project.

### **CSP Vision Planning and Implementation Training Requirements**

Successful charter schools are not only well-designed educational programs—they are well run non-profit businesses. In an effort to ensure the success of start-up charter schools, beginning in 2007, the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) will require that all schools receiving Charter School Program (CSP) sub-grants develop a training plan in the following project design areas:

- 1. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Accountability
- 2. Founding and Governance
- 3. School Leadership and Management
- 4. Business, Finance and Accounting
- 5. Special Populations

Applicants in grant year one will submit the training plan to the SDE as a part of the subgrant proposal. At the end of each grant cycle, all grant recipients will be required to provide verification of charter planning and implementation training. Documentation should include workshop agendas (dates, length of time, topic covered), names and positions of individuals attending.

The Idaho State Department of Education is working with the Idaho Charter School Network, the Idaho School Board Association and other charter technical assistance providers to implement a new school development programs that will provide guidance to charter school developers from conception to implementation. Workshops, on-line seminars and hands-on training will be available throughout the state. Dates of workshops will be published as they come available. Some sessions will be underwritten with funds from the SDE so there will be no charge. Others may require a fee to participate.

The charter school's governing board or founding board may determine the individuals or groups to provide the training specific to the school's needs. Although schools are not required to use project funds to pay for the training, both the training and the verification requirements must be met.

Charter developers in the pre-planning stage are encouraged to attend sessions appropriate to their stage of development:

#### Stage I: Steering Committee Development

- Business plan development
- Building board capacity
- Education program design
- Introduction to accountability fundamentals

### Stage II: Building Strategic Capacity

- Technical infrastructure orientation
- Curriculum and instruction
- Business plan review
- General technical support

### Stage III: Application Completion and Submission

- Governance
- Quality and accountability
- Finance
- Policy development
- Application review and feedback
- Mock hearings and preparation
- General Technical support
- Authorizer meetings

### Stage IV: Pre-Opening

- Governance
- Accountability training for school leadership
- School policies
- Leadership hiring/training
- General technical support
- Start-up financial practices
- Governance review

Charter school heads, board members, business managers and other individuals involved in the first two years of charter start-up are encouraged to attend sessions on the following topics:

- Quality and accountability
- Assessment and data management
- Leadership/organizational structure/capacity building
- Business management
- Instructional design and curriculum development
- Legal review, governance
- Charter contract negotiations
- Facilities planning and financing

### **Grant Process**

Grants will be awarded on an annual basis as federal funds are appropriated and made available. The grant award amount is dependent upon the number of charter applications that the state receives each year. The sub-grant period begins on the issuance date of the sub-grant award and will end June 30, 2008.

Both the Vision Planning Grant and the Start-Up Planning and Implementation Grant processes are competitive. A review committee of experienced charter school and education professionals will review all CSP applications. The team will evaluate adherence to application instructions, assurances, budgetary restrictions and eligibility. Using the CSP grant scoring rubric, the review committee will look specifically for charter school planning proposals that demonstrate understanding of the key objectives of the CSP grant, which include both statewide and federal objectives.

Funding will be based on the quality of the application and the efficacy of the budget. There is no guarantee that the submission of an application will result in funding or that funding will be allocated at the level requested.

Written notification of grant award decisions will be sent to the contact person for the project. Payments will be made on a quarterly basis, unless otherwise indicated. A fiscal year end report is required at the end of each fiscal year approved in the contract.

No funds may be obligated prior to the approval date of the grant. Separate accounting of the grant funds is required. Records of both encumbrances and expenditures are to be kept separately by expenditure code. If stipends are paid with grant funds, there must be documentation of time and attendance. All grant records must be maintained for three years following submission of the final report.

After grant awards have been made, a grant recipient who wishes to move more than 20 percent of funds from one budget category to another must submit a Budget Revision Request Form to the SDE School Choice Coordinator, Division of Innovation and Choice for approval.

Funding for continuation funds will be contingent upon progress made by the charter school in meeting program goals. The following items are required at the end of each budget year:

- Itemized expenditure report for the previous budget period
- Progress made toward project goals and objectives
- Documentation of required training compliance
- Updated Budget Summary and Project Budget Detail (Continuation Reports only)

A Continuation Report is due in July at the end of project Year One and Year Two. For those schools in their final year of eligibility, a Performance Report covering the entire 3 years will be due in July.

Federal law prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status in any educational programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance. (Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.)

It is the policy of the Idaho State Department of Education not to discriminate in any educational programs or activities or in employment practices.

Inquiries regarding compliance with this nondiscriminatory policy may be directed to State Superintendent of Public Instruction, PO Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0027, (208) 332-6800, or the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Seattle Office, U.S. Department of Education, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle WA 98174-1099, Telephone: (206) 220-7900; FAX (206) 220-7887, TDD: (206) 220-7907; Email: OCR\_Seattle@ed.gov.

DOE USE ONLY			
Date Received:	Award Date	Total Requested	Total Awarded
Year One:			
☐ Pre-charter planning ☐ Post-charter planning			
Year Two:			
Implementation			
Year Three:			
Implementation			

# Idaho Charter School Support Program Grant Application Cover Sheet

Full Name of Charter School or Propo	osed Charter School:
Street Address:	
City:	Zip Code:
Telephone:	Fax:
Email Address:	
Name of Project Director:	
District Location:	
Projected Enrollment:	Grade Level:
Type of Grant:	Amount Requested:
Name and Title of Authorized Representative:	Mailing Address:
The state of the s	
Telephone Number:	
Fax Number:	E-mail Address:
Name and Title of Secondary Contact:	Mailing Address:
Telephone Number:	
Fax Number:	E-mail Address
Tax Number.	E-mail Address
	dge the information in this application is correct, that the filing of this stitution being represented and that the applicant will comply with the
Signature of Authorized Representative	Date

## Idaho Charter School Support Program Assurances

	the duly authorized representative of Charter hool, I certify that I:
1.	Have the legal authority to apply for a sub-grant on behalf of this charter school from the Idaho Public Charter Schools Program.
2.	Will give the awarding agency, the Idaho State Department of Education (SDE), through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to this award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or SDE directives.
3.	An assurance that the charter school will subscribe to and maintain internet and e-mail service to share and receive information with other charter schools and the Idaho State Department of Education.
4.	Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable timeframe after receipt of approval by the SDE.
5.	Will comply with all federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.
6.	Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Hatch Act that limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with federal funds.
7.	Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with all federal and state statutes.
8.	Will annually provide the Idaho Department of Education such information as may be required to determine if the charter school is making satisfactory progress toward achieving the objectives described in PART II or the activities described in PART III of this sub- grant application
9.	An assurance that a copy of this grant proposal be submitted to the Authorizing Charter Entity.
 Sig	gnature of Charter School Administrator Date

Signature of Chair of Charter School Board of Directors

Date

### Idaho Charter School Support Program Project Narrative

#### A. Executive Summary or Project Abstract (1-2 pages)

Provide an overview of the proposed charter school. Include a brief description of the mission, vision, purpose, educational program, and history of the school's development, including information about the school's founder(s). Provide the school's grade levels, actual or intended location and description of the staff and board of trustees.

### B. Project Need (2-5 pages)

Describe why the charter school is needed in the community and provide supporting data as evidence. Describe how the school's mission and goals address the learning needs of the students it will serve.

### C. Project Design and Implementation (maximum 20 pages)

Describe how the school will develop and implement strategies for each of the five areas considered to be essential to the implementation and success of high quality charter schools:

- 1. Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Accountability
- 2. Founding and Governance
- 3. School Leadership and Management
- 4. Business, Finance and Accounting
- 5. Special Populations
- 6. Community Partnerships and Relations

### D. Evaluation of School Performance (2-5 pages)

Project narratives should outline a work plan for pre-charter development activities or post-charter development and implementation activities; organize the tasks with a timeline; and develop benchmarks for progress review.

Effective project proposals will:

1. Include clear, measurable objectives. Specifically, how will grant funds be used to support the implementation of a high quality educational program? Describe a sound educational philosophy, including how learning best occurs for the student population served. Provide clear and strong evidence that the proposed program will serve the needs of the intended population, including research and historical examples. Develop a plan for providing staff development training: mission and vision, improving individual student achievement, continuous improvement process.

- 2. Describe the background and qualifications of board members and/or developers/founders. Demonstrate that the school's developers/founders, proposed governing board members, employees, or contractors possess skill and experience in areas that are critical to charter school success: curriculum, instruction and assessment; finance, facilities, law, management; governance and administration. Develop a comprehensive training plan for administrators and governing board members that includes, but is not limited to: non-profit board governance, open meeting laws, hiring and evaluating administration, taxes and benefits, articles of incorporation, bylaws, policies and procedures, vendor contracting, mediation and appeals.
- 3. Provide a comprehensive description of the school's leadership structure. Include the background and qualifications of board members and/or developers/founders. If appropriate, describe how the school will be managed during the pre-charter planning period and how the school will be managed once it is operational.
- 4. Describe the accounting practices and policies of the school. Provide a clearly articulated professional development training plan that will expand the skills and knowledge of the school administrator in the areas of business, finance and accounting.
- 5. Include a plan for identifying students with special needs, including students eligible for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services and Limited English Proficient (LEP) students. Include processes for developing, reviewing and monitoring Individual Education Plans (IEP) for students with special needs. Develop a comprehensive training plan for administrators and teachers of students from special populations.
- 6. Describe the charter school's relationship to its surrounding community. Identify primary stakeholders and describe their anticipated level and type of involvement in proposed grant activities. Describe how the community will be informed about the charter school and how the charter developer or charter school will reach out to existing programs, initiatives or institutions that might collaborate or support the type of school envisioned.
- 7. Describe methods for evaluating the proposed project. Describe the school's plan for sustaining and expanding its work after the federal grant has expired. Charter developers will describe how they will ensure that planning will be sustained and fully implemented if the charter is granted or once the school opens. Authorized charter schools will evaluate progress made toward goals in original charter.

### Idaho Charter School Support Program Budget Summary

### **Directions:**

Funding in Project Years 2 and 3 is dependent upon available federal funds. Budget Summary and Project Detail Forms should provide data and expenditures that are credible, support the grant request and are aligned to the goals and overall mission and program of the school. After grant awards have been made, a grant recipient who wishes to move more than 20 percent of funds from one budget category to another must submit a Budget Revision Request Form to the Idaho Department of Education for approval. Modifications to upcoming years'

Project Year 1	Project Year 2	Project Year 3	Total

The sub-grant period for the 2007-2008 funds begins with the dissemination of the awards until 6/30/2007.

# Idaho Charter School Support Program Project Budget Detail

### First Budget Period

Check one: □ Pre-Charter	Vision Plan	ning Grant	Post-Charter Planning	and Implementation Grant
Anticipated Timeframe (from	to	_):		

Category	Item	Month	Item Description/Justification	Estimated # Items	Estimated Cost/Item	Total Cost
Examples						
Professional Services	Accounting Consultant Fee	March	Development of payroll: establish payroll processes and procedures, and implement payroll forms for processing to ensure that accounting practices and policies for the charter school are fiscally sound.	1	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Professional Services	Consultant Fee	April	Hire a consultant to provide training for the charter school board in non-profit board governance, policies and procedures. Training will be two full days	1	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
					+	
First Budget	Period					\$7,000.00

# Idaho Charter School Support Program Project Budget Detail

### **Second Budget Period**

Check one:   Planning and Implement	ntation Grant (follows	Vision Grant) □ First	Year Implementation Grant
Anticipated Timeframe (from to	):		

Category	Item	Month	Item Description/Justification	Estimated # Items	Estimated Cost/Item	Total Cost
Examples						
Training/ Professional Development	ESE Consultant	June	ESE Consultant will provide staff development activities for 20 teachers in the following areas: a) appropriate teaching strategies for students with disabilities b) develop appropriate IEPs c) maintain written documentation of services for students whose IEPs indicate services are needed.	1	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00
Community Outreach	Direct Mail Campaign	June- July	Direct mail campaigns to increase community awareness and student enrollment for school	3	\$ 750.00	\$ 3,000.00
Equipment	Student Computers	August	A student computer lab to implement curriculum, train students in the use of technology, and allow students to create papers and projects.	25	\$600.00	\$15,000.00
Second Budge	et Period Total					

# Idaho Charter School Support Program Project Budget Detail

### Third Budget Period

Check one: □ Post-Charter Planning G	rant □ Post-Charter Planning and Implementation Grant
Anticipated Timeframe (from to	):

Category	Item	Month	Item Description/Justification	Estimated # Items	Estimated Cost/Item	Total Cost
Examples						
_						
_						
Third Budget	Period					

### Idaho Charter School Support Program Application Checklist

Submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of the complete application to Shirley Rau, School Choice Coordinator, Division of Innovation and Choice, Idaho State Department of Education. Authorized charter schools should include a copy of the school's charter in each application packet. Do not put the original proposal or copies in binders or folders. All pages must be standard letter size, single spaced with 1 inch margins. Number all pages. Do not send any material that must be returned. Use the Application Checklist to sequence proposal documents as well as to ensure that the application is complete. A complete application must include the following:

Required Documents:	Applicant	SDE
Grant Application Cover Sheet (use template provided)		
Signed Assurance Agreement		
Executive Summary		
Project Need		
Project Design and Implementation		
<ol> <li>Curriculum, Instruction, Accountability</li> <li>Founding and Governance</li> <li>School Leadership and Management</li> <li>Business, Finance and Accounting</li> <li>Special Populations</li> </ol>		
Evaluation of School Performance		
Budget Summary (use template provided)		
Project Budget Detail (use template provided)		
Year One Year Two Year Three		
Signed Application Checklist (use template provided)		